



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Rodney H Masters et al.

Serial No.: 09/481,153

Filed: January 12, 2000

For: System for Securing Composite
Gratings to Structural Members

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Group No.: 3637

Examiner: W. Yip

DOCKET NO.: P01506US2

GMU
23/11/03
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REPLY AND AMENDMENT

BOX Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Reply is filed in response to the Office Action mailed December 29, 2002, for the above-referenced patent application. Entry of the following amendments into the file of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 7, 18, and 20 as follows:

7. An apparatus for securing a grating sheet to structural members in a wave zone of an offshore platform, the grating sheet including an upper and lower surface, the apparatus comprising:

a top plate for mounting on the upper surface of the grating sheet, the top plate having a hole therein and upper and lower surfaces;

a bottom plate having an [slot] opening, the bottom plate being [sized and shaped for attaching] attached to the structural member in a laterally extending direction for supporting the grating sheet; and

[engaging means] a securing mechanism extending between the upper surface of the top plate and the bottom plate through the opening of the bottom plate for clamping